

Appl. No. 10/521,955
Docket No. EBA-0022

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) An initiator device comprising:
an electrical initiation element having signal input nodes thereto;
protective circuitry connected across the signal input nodes, the protective circuitry comprising a clamping portion responsive to input signals at the input nodes to divert from the initiation element at least a portion of such input signals, the clamping portion being responsive to a release signal to permit the input signal to pass to the initiation element upon receipt of such release signal; and
a timer portion connected to the clamping portion and to the input nodes, and being responsive to such input signals, for issuing a release signal to the clamping portion after passage of a clamping interval after the receipt of the input signal.
2. (original) The initiator device of claim 1 wherein the clamping interval is about 100 microseconds or less.
3. (original) The initiator device of claim 2 wherein the clamping interval is in the range of from about 5 microseconds to 100 microseconds.
4. (original) The initiator device of claim 2 wherein the clamping interval is in the range of from about 20 microseconds to 100 microseconds.
5. (original) The initiator device of claim 1 comprising a unipolar clamping circuit and a unipolar timer circuit.

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6. (original) The initiator device of claim 1 comprising a bipolar clamping circuit and a bipolar timer circuit.

7. (original) The initiator device of claim 1 wherein at least one of the electrical initiation element and the protective circuitry are formed as integrated circuitry.

8. (original). The initiator device of claim 7 wherein the initiation element and protective circuitry are mounted on a header comprising two electrical leads connected to the protective circuitry, and further comprising a shell mounted on the header and a charge of reactive material in the shell for initiation by the initiation element.

9. (new) The initiator of claim 1, wherein the clamping portion is responsive to an input signal at the input nodes to divert from the initiation element a first portion of the input signal above a defined threshold, while permitting a second non-zero portion of the input signal to pass to the initiation element.

10. (new) The initiator of claim 1, wherein the initiation element is responsive to an input signal at the input nodes that exceeds a function time of the initiation element by at least as much as the clamping interval, the function time of the initiation element being a time sufficient to cause initiation of the initiation element.

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11. (new) The initiator of claim 1, wherein in response to a proper initiation signal received at the electrical initiation element, the clamping portion has a time interval that is sufficiently less than a duration of the proper initiation signal to prevent a transient signal occurring within the time interval from initiating the initiation element while permitting an adequate portion of the proper initiation signal to pass to the initiation element for initiation thereof.